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*To prevent and treat disease and disability; to promote healthy lifestyles; and to protect and promote the health and quality of our environment.*

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## **News Release**

### **Recent Attorney General Interpretation Compromises Swimming Pool Health & Safety**

Date: May 24, 2001

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A May 14, 2001 interpretation released by the Attorney General's Office on the definition of "public pool" will result in many previously permitted pools no longer being mandated to comply with the State of Idaho Swimming Pool Regulations.

Under this interpretation, Central District Health Department (CDHD) will no longer be required to inspect 184 swimming pools in our jurisdiction. Only 27 (11%) of the previously permitted swimming pools within District IV will still be covered by the Swimming Pool Regulations. Permitted facilities include Roaring Springs, Boise City Pools, YMCA pools, Warm Springs in Idaho City and Silver Creek Plunge north of Crouch. A complete list of permitted pools is available at <http://www.cdhd.org/EnvironmentalHealth/>.

Under this interpretation, only those pools where an individual pays to swim will be required to secure a permit from their local Health District. Excluded pools include hotel, motel, condominium and apartment complex swimming pools, and fitness pools. CDHD and the pool industry have partnered to protect swimmers in these pools for 30 years.

Idaho's seven public health districts are committed to providing a voluntary permitting system to those pool operators in the state that wish to continue to provide this measure of health and safety to their patrons – whether or not an entrance fee to the pool is required. To receive a permit, pools must have a trained operator and undergo a sanitation and safety inspection (a complete list of inspection items is available at <http://www.cdhd.org/EnvironmentalHealth/>).

Together, parents, pool operators, and public health can take steps to keep our kids safe at every pool in our communities.

Steps that adults can take to protect the health and safety of children in and around pools include:

1. Plan Ahead –
  - Teach your children to swim
  - Learn CPR
  - Don't let your children swim when they are ill
2. Look Around –
  - Know where the public and private pools (and canals) are in your neighborhood
  - Locate the nearest telephone any time you are at a pool
  - Locate safety equipment any time you are at a pool

For additional pool safety and health information log onto [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org), [www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming) or [www.cdhd.org](http://www.cdhd.org).

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